

**From:** Joseph F. Lingeitch  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 10:20am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to comment on the proposed judgment against Microsoft for their illegal conduct in abusing their monopoly in desktop operating systems. In summary, I think the penalties are excessively light and furthermore they do nothing to punish Microsoft for it's illegal behavior or correct the damages that have occurred. The settlement is unacceptable because it is far to lenient on Microsoft.

My main frustration with Microsoft (I own Windows 95 and MS Office 97 software) is their unwillingness to accurately document the details of their file formats for their office products and network protocols for sharing files. Their reason for doing so is to strengthen their monopoly status and prohibit competitors from producing products that challenge Microsoft market share.

The power of network computers is in their ability to exchange meaningful information in a heterogeneous environment. Microsoft does not make sufficient allowances in it's software for intercommunication between computers other than those running Microsoft Operating system. Examples of the close protocols with inhibit this connectivity are the closed Microsoft Word file formats and the Microsoft's poorly documented NetBui protocol implementation.

I urge you to strengthen the penalties against Microsoft to be commensurate with their violation of the law and to open up the desktop operating system market to competition. We would all benefit from the increased competition.

Sincerely,

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